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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**November 20, 2003**

For immediate release

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## **PARTICIPATION AT IOWA WATER SUMMIT AT CAPACITY**

AMES — More than 450 Iowans are expected to participate in the Iowa Water Summit to be held Monday, Nov. 24 in Ames.

“We’re at full capacity and are very pleased at the number of Iowans who care enough about this issue to take the time to participate,” said Bernie Hoyer of the DNR who has helped coordinate the event.

Gov. Tom Vilsack, in his Condition of the State address last January initiated the Water Summit. The purpose of the event is to build consensus toward addressing water quality issues in Iowa with a goal of eliminating impaired waters in the state by 2010.

Because the Water Summit’s participation has reached capacity for the Scheman Auditorium at Iowa State University, Hoyer said those who are not already registered will not be able to attend on Monday.

“As much as we’d like to, the logistics are simply not going to allow us to take in people who are not already on the registration list,” Hoyer said.

More than 400 people attended public meetings regarding water quality held at several locations across the state in the past month, according to Bernie Hoyer.

“People attending those meetings provided us with valuable information and ideas for addressing water quality issues in Iowa,” Hoyer said.

**For more information, contact Kevin Baskins at (515) 281-8395.**

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## **GASOLINE PRICES DROP SLOWLY ACROSS THE STATE**

DES MOINES — According to the DNR's Nov. 15, 2003 fuel price survey, gasoline prices are \$0.12 lower than one month ago, averaging \$1.43 for a gallon of self-serve, regular unleaded gasoline. The price decrease was due to higher gasoline supplies, as many of the refineries supplying Iowa's gasoline began increasing production levels as they came back from annual maintenance. Prices are still higher than year-ago levels, due mainly to increased demand for gasoline, which is averaging nearly five percent higher than last year.

"Gasoline prices may temporarily increase around the Thanksgiving holiday, as demand increases," said DNR energy analyst Jennifer Moehlmann. "However, prices should begin decreasing again after the holiday, barring any supply problems or continued high demand."

According to the Nov. 15 survey, prices across the state ranged from \$1.32 to \$1.58 per gallon and are \$0.06 higher than this time last year. Retail conventional unleaded gasoline prices in Iowa are \$0.03 lower than the national average of \$1.46 per gallon and \$0.01 lower than the regional averages of \$1.44 per gallon.

The average price for regular unleaded with ethanol was \$1.41 per gallon. Ethanol-blended gasoline currently represents 59.7 percent of the market share.

Crude oil finished trading on Nov. 19 at \$32.93 per barrel, \$1.10 more than last month. One year ago, crude was \$26.98 per barrel. Crude oil prices have risen upon trader concerns regarding low supply and increased demand. National crude oil inventory is at 294.0 million barrels, 2.0 percent higher than the previous year but only in the lower end of the normal range. The DNR expects crude oil prices to remain volatile while U.S. inventories are relatively low, with prices ranging between \$29 and \$33 per barrel.

The average price of self-serve diesel fuel on Nov. 15 was \$1.51, down \$0.06 from last month and \$0.04 higher than the regional average of \$1.47 per gallon. Diesel fuel was \$1.41 per gallon one year ago.

### **Propane**

The Nov. 17 survey found the average retail price of propane was \$1.01 per gallon. This is the same as the previous month and 21.7 percent above the retail price of propane at this time last year (\$0.83 per gallon). Traditionally, propane prices begin to rise in late summer, hitting their peak in late winter.

### **Heating Oil Prices**

The Nov. 17 survey found the average retail price of No.2 heating oil was \$1.14 per gallon. This is \$0.04 lower than last month and 7.5 percent above the price of heating oil at this time last year (\$1.06 per gallon). United States' inventories are now in the normal range of the five-year average. Traditionally, heating oil prices begin to climb in the fall, hitting their peak in late winter.

### **Natural Gas**

Natural gas closed at \$4.45 on Nov. 19, \$0.47 lower than last month but still 5 percent higher than one year ago. Natural gas prices have been pushed lower by mild fall weather, but are expected to rise as temperatures decrease. Consumers are expected to pay 10 to 30 percent more for natural gas this winter, but that number could change if the winter is significantly colder or warmer than normal.

### **MOTOR FUELS SURVEY**

<b>Self-Serve</b>	<b>October 15</b>	<b>November 15</b>	<b>Change</b>
Regular Unleaded	1.55	1.43	-0.12
Regular Unleaded with Ethanol	1.53	1.41	-0.12
Premium Unleaded	1.66	1.55	-0.11
Diesel	1.57	1.51	-0.06
<b>Full-Serve</b>	<b>October 15</b>	<b>November 15</b>	<b>Change</b>
Regular Unleaded	1.71	1.61	-0.10
Regular Unleaded with Ethanol	1.70	1.60	-0.10
Premium Unleaded	1.85	1.70	-0.15
Diesel	1.59	1.62	+0.03

### **HEATING FUELS SURVEY**

	<b>October 13</b>	<b>November 17</b>	<b>Change</b>
Propane	1.01	1.01	No Change
#2 Heating Oil	1.18	1.14	-0.04
Natural Gas	4.92	4.45	-0.47

### **AVERAGE SELF-SERVE UNLEADED PRICES IN MAJOR CITIES**

	<b>October 15</b>	<b>November 15</b>	<b>Change</b>
Ames	1.57	1.48	-0.09
Cedar Rapids	1.49	1.37	-0.12
Council Bluffs	1.47	1.40	-0.07
Davenport	1.47	1.37	-0.10
Des Moines	1.53	1.41	-0.12
Dubuque	1.57	1.42	-0.15
Fort Dodge	1.58	1.44	-0.14
Iowa City	1.59	1.47	-0.12
Sioux City	1.54	1.38	-0.16
Waterloo	1.53	1.35	-0.18
Webster City	1.65	1.54	-0.11
Average Metro Price	1.54	1.40	-0.14

### **AVERAGE SELF-SERVE UNLEADED PRICES IN RURAL IOWA**

	<b>October 15</b>	<b>November 15</b>	<b>Change</b>
Northeast	1.53	1.46	-0.07

Northwest	1.57	1.39	-0.18
Southeast	1.52	1.45	-0.07
Southwest	1.57	1.45	-0.12
Rural Area Average	1.55	1.47	-0.08

#### WHOLESALE PRICES IN METROPOLITAN AREAS AROUND IOWA

Unleaded (cents per gallon)	October 9	November 13
Des Moines	96.47	89.78
Dubuque	97.70	90.57
Diesel Fuel (cents per gallon)	October 9	November 13
Des Moines	95.61	89.63
Dubuque	96.60	90.85

**For more information, contact Jennifer Moehlmann at (515) 281-8518.**

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## WATERSHED STUDY IDENTIFIES *E. COLI* SOURCES

DES MOINES — A recent study investigating *E. coli* in the Upper Iowa River watershed may help researchers determine sources of contamination in Iowa waters.

The Upper Iowa Bacteria Source Tracking (BST) Project sought to differentiate between human and animal sources of *E. coli*, a fecal coliform bacterium found in human and animal intestines. *E. coli* is often used in water quality assessments as an indicator of fecal pollution and possible disease-producing organisms. However, just the presence of *E. coli* does not differentiate between sources of fecal pollution.

“When we know what source the bacteria is coming from, it may give us an idea of what pathogens could be present and the associated health risks,” said Eric O’Brien, research biologist with the Iowa Geological Survey.

“It’s critical to identify sources of bacteria. Once we know the sources, we can take actions needed to eliminate or control the sources,” said Ubbo Agena, DNR environmental engineer senior.

Samples for the project were taken from within four sub-watersheds of the Upper Iowa River in northeast Iowa. Researchers created DNA “fingerprints” of *E. coli* samples in known manure and water samples through a process known as ribotyping. DNA ribotyping successfully identified the *E. coli* from water samples as human or cattle bacterial sources, but there was not enough data to discriminate between the other specific animal sources.

While more samples are needed to effectively determine other sources of fecal pollution in the Upper Iowa River watershed, the development of source tracking methodology and the first statewide DNA “fingerprint” database can help in future studies. Results of the

BST project, the first of its kind in Iowa, have helped guide local researchers and conservation specialists towards methods to address and reduce fecal contamination in watersheds.

“Further bacterial source tracking research is currently underway in the Lake Darling watershed in southeast Iowa,” O’Brien said. “The fingerprinting technique will be used in combination with other source tracking methodologies to find out if a combination of techniques would work best to determine all sources of fecal contamination.”

The study is a joint project of the DNR, Iowa Geological Survey, the University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory and the Upper Iowa River Watershed Alliance. Funding for the project was provided by The University of Iowa Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research (CGRER).

**For more information, contact Eric O’Brien at (319) 353-2835.**

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## **DNR HOSTS PUBLIC HEARING ON NEW RULES FOR MANURE APPLICATORS**

DES MOINES – The DNR is asking for public input on proposed changes in rules for commercial and confinement site manure applicators.

The public hearing will be held at 1 p.m. on Dec. 3 in the west, fourth floor conference room of the Wallace Building, 502 E. Ninth St., in Des Moines.

Proposed changes include reducing commercial applicators’ certification fees and charging a \$25 education fee for both commercial and confinement site applicators.

Other changes would allow companies to substitute commercial applicators mid-season if the company had paid the certification fees and the substitutes are certified.

“This is the opportunity for applicators to voice their opinions about the rule changes,” said Gene Tinker, coordinator of DNR’s animal feeding program.

Rule changes take effect starting Jan. 1, 2004, and result from changes in state law.

“We took the double barrel approach on these rules, simultaneously asking for immediate approval and also taking the conventional route that allows for public input,” Tinker said.

The rules have been adopted and filed on an emergency basis putting rules in place by Jan. 1. However, comments from the public could lead to changes in the rule, Tinker said.

The rule proposal can be found under the Environmental Protection Commission's October agenda on the DNR website at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) or specifically at <http://www.iowadnr.com/epc/03oct20/17.pdf>

Comments can be presented orally or in writing at the public hearing. People with special requirements such as mobility or hearing impairments should contact the DNR prior to the meeting so that accommodations are available

Written comments can be sent to Gene Tinker, DNR – Animal Feeding Operations, Wallace Building, 502 E. Ninth St, Des Moines, IA 50319 or faxed to 515-281-8895 until 4:30 p.m., Dec. 3, 2003.

**For more information, contact Gene Tinker, (515) 281-3103.**

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## **NEW ANIMAL CONFINEMENT OWNERS NEED ORIGINAL MANURE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

DES MOINES – When ownership changes on a confinement feeding operation, the new owners must file a manure management plan specific to their operation.

“When buying an existing facility, it’s important for the purchaser to file a new plan,” said Cindy Martens, an environmental specialist in the Spencer DNR field office. “Putting together the plan helps ensure that they know how to handle the manure, where to apply it and that there is enough land available for application.”

An original or first-time manure management plan includes new manure application agreements, a filing fee of \$250 and the indemnity fees of \$0.10 per animal unit, Martens said.

Indemnity fees are not due if the confinement feeding operation was built prior to May 31, 1995.

Manure management plans are required for most confinement feeding operations that have more than 500 animal units or about 1250 finishing swine.

The DNR’s manure management plan forms are located on the website at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) under animal feeding operations.

**For more information, contact Cindy Martens, at 712-262-4177.**

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## **DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

DES MOINES — The DNR has taken the following enforcement actions. Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the charges or 60 days to pay the penalty.

- KMB Diversified Services, of Sioux Falls, S.D., was ordered to comply with required asbestos notification, removal and disposal procedures, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. KMB was removing asbestos-containing material prior to demolition of a school building in Rock Rapids, Iowa.
- Krause Gentle Corporation, d.b.a. Kum & Go, of West Des Moines, was ordered to comply with required asbestos notification, removal and disposal procedures, and to pay a \$2,000 penalty. The order is in regards to the construction of Kum & Go stores in Hampton and Perry.
- Rockford Construction, of Belmont, Mich., was ordered to comply with required asbestos removal and notification procedures and to pay a \$1,000 penalty. Rockford Construction was working on the construction of a Family Video store in Ames.
- K and E Limited Partnership and Family Video Movie Club, Inc., of Springville, Ill., were ordered to comply with required asbestos removal and notification procedures and to pay a \$1,000 penalty. The order is in regards to the construction of a Family Video store in Ames.
- Harlan Clasen, of Rock Rapids, was ordered to stop open burning of combustible materials, stop the illegal disposal of solid waste, submit verification to the DNR of proper disposal of all existing solid waste on his property and pay a \$10,000 penalty.
- Robert L. Nelson, of Norwalk, was ordered to permanently close underground storage tanks (USTs) in Orient, Iowa, conduct a soil and groundwater closure investigation, submit a closure report to the DNR, and pay a \$2,450 penalty.
- Tom Wageman Farm, of Shelby County, was ordered to submit an updated manure management plan, submit an annual compliance fee and pay a \$750 penalty.
- W & H Cooperative Oil Company and Ron Ely (d.b.a. D & L Metal Recycling), of Humboldt County, were ordered to comply with all legal notification requirements upon occurrence of a hazardous condition in regards to a diesel fuel spill. W & H was ordered to pay a \$1,000 penalty and Ely was ordered to pay a \$250 penalty.

### **Consent Orders**

**A consent order is issued in settlement of an administrative order or as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.**

- Metzeler Automotive Profile Systems, of Keokuk, has agreed to the provisions of a consent order with the purpose of resolving issues concerning Metzeler's failure to obtain proper construction permits for emission units. Metzeler will submit proper air quality construction permits to the DNR, comply with permit requirements in the future and pay a penalty of \$10,000.
- Clinton County Area Solid Waste Agency has agreed to a consent order, which replaces a previous administrative order. The agency agreed to comply with solid waste permit provisions, statutes and administrative rules and to pay a penalty of \$1,500. The penalty has been paid.
- Rittmer, Inc., of Clinton County, has agreed to a consent order, which replaces a previous administrative order. Rittmer, Inc. agreed to comply with solid waste permit provisions, statutes and administrative rules and to pay a penalty of \$7,500. The penalty has been paid.
- Rural Iowa Solid Waste Management Association, of Hardin County, has agreed to a consent order, which replaces a previous administrative order. The association has agreed to make contributions of \$250 each to the County Conservation Boards of Butler, Hamilton, Hardin and Wright counties for use in environmental projects. The association also agreed to obtain previous approval from the DNR prior to use of any cover material other than 50 percent sand.
- Gary Muller, of Griswold, has agreed to a consent amendment regarding manure application at his animal feeding operation. Amendments to the original order include a \$200 penalty, the requirement for Muller to build six ponds on his property and submit a report to the DNR detailing the ponds' completion, environmental benefits and maintenance plans.
- Tyson Fresh Meats, of Storm Lake, has agreed to a consent order, which replaces a previous administrative order. The company has agreed to take remedial measures to minimize lift station bypassing and in lieu of a penalty, make a \$2,000 contribution to the Storm Lake Preservation Association as a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). The SEP has been paid.
- Tim Schrock and Devon Schrock, of Washington County, have agreed to a consent amendment regarding manure application at their animal feeding operation. The original administrative order was amended only to change the penalty from \$4,000 to \$1,500.

**For more information, contact Jessie Rolph at 515-281-5131.**